

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
PRESIDING OFFICER

FULL LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

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Minority Leader

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DENISE FORD

LAURA CURRAN

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DELIA DeRIGGI-WHITTON

JAMES KENNEDY

LAURA SCHAEFER

DENNIS DUNNE, SR.

JUDY JACOBS

ROSE MARIE WALKER

DONALD MACKENZIE

STEVEN RHOADS

WILLIAM MULLER  
Clerk of the Legislature

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CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have a very significant occasion today, among a few others. We're going to begin with inviting the Honorable Angelo Delligatti, who will be swearing in our newest, or one of our newest, legislators, James Kennedy.

Now, with James today are his lovely wife Samantha, his three year old son Logan - and today is his birthday - Happy Birthday, Logan - his mother-in-law, Lois Schmitt, his mother, Mrs. Kennedy, and I think we have a few other people here, Assemblyman Joseph Saladino, and I think the rest of you -- and I believe there are others here. Lois, would you like to introduce them so we all know who has come to honor our dear Legislator James Kennedy. Go up to the mic. Go up to the mic, Lois.

MRS. SCHMITT: We have, of course, Tess Kennedy, James' mom. We have Assemblyman Joseph Saladino. Greg Mangino, Steve Mangino, who are

2 twins. Margo. Rose Brewey. Mayor James  
3 Gardener. Ray Avena. Our Comptroller, George  
4 Maragos. Newly-elected Legislator Steve Rhoads.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Lois, while  
7 you're standing there is there anything you would  
8 like to say?

9 MRS. SCHMITT: Just that I'm very  
10 trilled and very grateful. And I know Peter is  
11 looking down on this day. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now, at this  
13 time, the Honorable Angela Delligatti will now  
14 swear in James. I think Logan -- come on, James,  
15 you've got to be faster than Logan. Samantha,  
16 you have to hold the Bible.

17 HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: Congratulations  
18 to James, his family. I've known Samantha since  
19 she was a little girl. As Lois said, I'm sure  
20 Peter is very proud today. It's my pleasure to  
21 be able to administer the oath to a wonderful  
22 young man, who I know has a great future.

23 James, raise your right hand.

24 HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: I, James Kennedy

25 -

MR. KENNEDY: I, James Kennedy -

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: Do solemnly swear

-

MR. KENNEDY: Do solemnly swear -

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: To uphold the

Constitution of the United States -

MR. KENNEDY: To uphold the Constitution

of the United States -

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: the Constitution

of the State of New York -

MR. KENNEDY: the Constitution of the

State of New York -

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: and the Laws and

Charter of the County of Nassau.

MR. KENNEDY: and the Laws and Charter

of the County of Nassau.

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: And I further

promise -

MR. KENNEDY: And I further promise -

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: to discharge the

duties -

MR. KENNEDY: to discharge the duties -

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: the Office of

County Legislature -

MR. KENNEDY: the Office of the County  
Legislature -

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: to the best of my  
ability -

MR. KENNEDY: to the best of my ability  
-

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: so help me God.

MR. KENNEDY: so help me God.

HONORABLE DELLIGATTI: Congratulations.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I'm so honored to  
be sworn in this morning as a Nassau County  
Legislator. Thank you to those who supported me,  
everyone who is here, all elected officials, I  
want to thank you for coming - Assemblyman Joseph  
Saladino, Comptroller George Maragos, former-  
Mayor Jim Gardener, my mother, who has been an  
absolute rock for me throughout my life, and my  
father who is passed almost five years now and is  
watching along with my father-in-law up in Heaven  
right now, and my mother-in-law, of course. And  
I don't want to forget to thank my wife Samantha,  
who has been an incredible person, an incredible  
mother, incredible wife. She has been my rock as  
well. My little boy, whom I love, and my wife, I

love you both so much.

Thank you so much everyone. And I will do the best that I can.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We honor people, residents in our County who go over and above their expectations. And I have the pleasure today, and I don't know if they're all here today, of recognizing 11 individuals who -- and we were going to do this sooner, but with the weather that we've had this winter, I don't think it was possible. But they are here today knowing that - guess what - we may have had our last snowfall last week. I'm afraid to say it. But everybody is hoping that that is the case, and we will now move on to spring.

Without any further ado, there are several employees of DPW who went to assist in digging out those in Buffalo in November - it seems a long time ago - who received three to five feet of snow, and they certainly had to bring with them their respective equipment. There are several of them. As I said, there are 11. I'm going to also mention the fact that the equipment that was taken with them -- and we had



a Mack Dump 2013, and the drivers were Dennis Oakley and Edward Schenk. As I call your names, would you please stand up if you're here, I hope. Come on, stand up. Okay.

We had another Mack Dump in transit to Buffalo, and the drivers were John Robinson and Matthew Advansi (phonetic). Is that correct? I'm not sure.

Another Mack Dump, we had Michael Sevelly and Lawrence Nicholson. And now we have a Sterling Tractor, a lowboy trailer, a Hyundai Payloader, and the drivers were James Batewell and John Rivera. We had a Ford Mechanic Service Vehicle and the drivers were John Sloan and Michael Schneider. Last, but not least, another Ford Pickup and the driver was Robert Taylor. It looks like each and every one of you are here today. On behalf of the Legislature, we have a citation for all of you - and I don't know how we're going to do this.

I want you to join us here in the middle of the Chamber to receive your citation. Anyone else who wants to join with us may join in the picture taken. Jerry. Oh. I didn't see you

Jerry. It's your turn. I could have had you introduce them.

MR. LARICCHIUTA: You did a great job, Madam Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves, as you always do. I'd like to thank this legislature, the entire legislature.

Congratulations to our newcomers. We're going to have a lot of fun. I'm actually one of your constituents. I want to talk to you about a stop sign later on. No. I'm only kidding. But that's what you're in for.

I think it's really, you know, it shows a lot of respect when our government comes together in a bipartisan fashion like this, to recognize those that work so hard and barely ever get any recognition. Sometimes when things go well, we only hear about things when they don't go well. These are the unsung heroes. There are the people that work behind the scenes. They are part of the CSEA union. We never hear about them because they do their job. And during one of the harshest winters in history, and I think the coldest February now, they actually said it was the coldest. So, as you know, as it goes, once

the temperature his five degrees, salt doesn't work. They had winds. It was day after day. I think that our county, our towns, our villages, and our state, all of our DPW workers throughout New York did a fantastic job.

Thank you again, so much.

They went up to Buffalo, it was a 12 hour drive. They saw amazing -- I just saw some pictures they showed me that are just incredible, where the snow was actually higher than the people walking down the street. And they couldn't use snow plows. They had to use payloaders because it was impossible to plow that much snow. And they left their families for days. They left on the 20th. They came back on the 24th. The first night they had to sleep at a Red Cross homeless shelter. After that, the accommodations were much, much better. There was a lot of confusion.

There were people stuck in their homes. They couldn't get out the front door. So, not only did they do a great job for Nassau County and keeping us as safe as possible and the roads as passable as possible, but they actually went,

you know, 370 miles out of their way, in trucks to help a neighboring county and area that needed so much help. So thank you for recognizing them.

The CSEA has given them plaques. I would like, if that's all right, I'd like to get a picture with the Legislature. If we could have them come up and get a group picture with you, if that's possible.

Whatever you want to do, you're the boss.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I just wanted to say to everyone here that's standing, I have to tell you that I thought the job you did this year was beyond fabulous. There wasn't one morning after a storm that, really, people could not get out on our county roads. I don't know how you did it.

I know you're reading a lot about snow on the sidewalks and snow piled high. I don't know what you're supposed to do with it at that point. It just froze so quickly, there was no other place to go. So my hat goes off to you. Read between the lines when you read things like that. That's a few people. Most people feel that the roads were ready for people to get to work, and that's really thanks to you. I just want you to

know that.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jerry, I have to reiterate what Legislator Jacobs said.

Usually our phones ring off the hook, not this time. People were satisfied with the job that you did. I have to say I wasn't trapped in my house either, and I'm not one to go out in the snow and venture what lied ahead. But let me tell you something. At no point was I trapped. And I could get to work. And I say thank you to you.

Legislator Dunne.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Before we had any snow here on Long Island, I was going up to Connecticut to see my daughter. I went over the Throgs Neck Bridge. I was on the Thruway and I saw a convoy of Nassau County trucks. They were all spanking clean. I don't know if they were brand new or what, but it was beautiful. And I quick called Robbie Walker and I said, Robbie, do we have a convoy going up to help those people in Buffalo. And he goes, we sure do. And I said after everybody came to us, when Sandy hit us, we're paying back. This is beautiful. I wish we

had a picture of the convoy going up there.

Thank you so much, Madam Chairwoman, for taking care of them and saying thank you from all of us. It was a wonderful thing you did. God Bless you guys. I'm very proud of you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jerry, why don't you have them come up here.

Another point of personal privilege. Legislator Seila Bynoe has an individual from the Westbury School District, security guard, Tony Hallard, who she'd like to recognize today. She will tell you a little bit about Tony. Legislator Bynoe.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to join here with Antonio Holly, a member of the Westbury High School security guard staff. As many of you may know, I was a board member at the Westbury Board of Education. I always felt very safe when our security guards were in the building, but in particular Tony. So it didn't surprise me when I learned that Tony had acted very selflessly, in a brave manner, to save a young lady who was in distress.

Tony was on his lunch break, a 15 minutes break, I should say, from the school. During that break, he observed a young lady that was in distress in a car with a gentleman. At that time there was some back and forth, some fighting. She got out of the car and he approached the gentleman while she was out of the car and she attempted to offset any violence that would take place. But they took off in the car again and the young lady was still struggling. And Tony, with quick thinking, being very aware of his surroundings, was able to call for help. Not only did he call his supervisors but he also called Nassau County Police Department and they were able to take pursuit, with the very clear communication of details as to where they were at the time. The police were able to intervene and safely remove the woman from the car. So Tony is a hero. He's a hometown hero because he acts selflessly every day in our school system, in making sure that our children remain safe. Going out on a lunch break when most people want to get what they need and go back to their facility, he took the extra step. He went above and beyond

what his duty calls for.

I'd like everyone to join me in a round of applause for Tony.

Joining Tony today, we have the Westbury High School Principal Manny Arias, and we also have two board members here. We have Trustee Campbell and we also have Trustee Bowling, who is videotaping this. Everybody is very proud of Tony back home. Tony, do you want to say a couple of words? Just thank you. He's a man of little words.

Thank you, again.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this time I'm going to -- I haven't called the Full Leg to order yet because we have a Rules Committee that will address two items. I'm going to ask the members of the Rules Committee to stay. If the rest of them would like to leave for a few minutes, fine; if not, you're welcome to stay as well.

(Whereupon, James Kennedy was sworn in as a member of the Nassau County Legislature.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: As is customary,



1 Full Legislature - 3-16-15 17  
2 we usually have 30 minutes of public comment. It  
3 is now two o'clock. And I'm going to ask my  
4 colleague to the right, Deputy Presiding Officer,  
5 to call the individuals who have put in a slip on  
6 items that are not on the calendar, these are  
7 other items, after we call the roll. We did call  
8 the roll, didn't we?  
9 CLERK MULLER: No, I didn't. I  
10 apologize.  
11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.  
12 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding Officer  
13 Nicolello?  
14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.  
15 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy  
16 Presiding Officer Kopel?  
17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.  
18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bynoe. She's  
19 here.  
20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages?  
21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.  
22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?  
23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.  
24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Curran?  
25 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

3 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Muscarella?

5 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

6 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Birnbaum?

7 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

8 CLERK MULLER: Legislator DeRiggi-

9 Whitton?

10 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Kennedy?

12 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Schaefer?

14 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

16 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

17 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Mackenzie?

22 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

23 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader Abrahams?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

25 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

Gonsalves?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

CLERK MULLER: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yuri Endo, Long Island Bus Rider Union.

VOICE: He's not here yet.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Aaron Watkin-Lopez.

MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: Good afternoon. Good afternoon. First of all, I just want to say congratulations Legislator Kennedy on your new position. I would also like to say thank you very much to the Minority Caucus of this body for appointing me as the bus rider representative to the Nassau County Bus Transit Committee.

As a bus rider, this is huge for us to be seated at the table with all of the big, you know, you know, the head honchos. It's a really great step forward for us as bus riders and for Nassau County. And I really, really thank you for that.

I'm here today to ask that Nassau County come forward and urge Governor Cuomo to increase the state funding for NICE Bus. You may not be

aware of this, but there is approximately \$121 million in funding that the MTA decided they did not need. So, they told the government you can have it. Cuomo took that money and he's put it into a different account. What we have been calling for and have been calling for, for the last three weeks, is that he put this money back into funding for non-MTA transit systems. Now that we are NICE Bus, we are non-MTA transit system.

          This money would help fill the \$5.3 million deficit that we're currently operating on. If not filled we're look at massive service cuts as well as more fare increases. As you know, we just had a fair increase in January. We had a fair increase in September. Our buses are going to be \$3 if we don't do something about it.

          The money is about \$3.8 million for Nassau County, though it would not completely fill the deficit, it still puts us in the right step in clearing that debt and start expanding our system instead of keeping at its bare skeletal skeleton.

So far, NICE Bus, clever devices, their

new technology, operators, Vision Long Island, the Long Island Lobby Coalition have all come forward and asked Cuomo to do this. We went up to Albany. We spoke to senators. They are willing to send us this money. But Nassau County needs to come forward and make this push.

Yeah. That's it. So, thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Could I ask you a favor?

MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: Yes.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You said it very quickly, I got it. It's like 125 million that the governor decided to use outside of MTA expenses, correct? Do I have it right now?

MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: I'm sorry. So there's \$121 million that was a part of the MTA budget that they decided they didn't need. So he took that money and he's moved it into a capital account that will no longer be used for transportation or infrastructure. What we're looking for is to have that money put back into Stellar funds, Metropolitan Mass Transit

Operating Assistance Funds for non-MTA systems.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: How about, seriously, putting something in writing, a brief paragraph, give us something that you want us to say. I have a feeling we'd all sign on on it, and we can get it done pretty quickly. But it would be helpful to us if you give us the proper wording that everyone else is signing on to, okay?

MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: Yeah, of course. I can send that out at the end of the day.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I'm especially concerned with this whole thing because I live in the Syosset area and you know the entire quarter of the county that's north-east has no -- very little bus service, no Able-Ride Service. Anything we could do to help would be great.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: First of all, congratulations on your appointment. Well deserved. I think you'll do well.

MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR FORD: I too, with Legislator Jacobs, we would love if you could give us a

2 synopsis so that we can write something. But you  
3 said you did meet. Did you meet with state  
4 senators from down her as well?

5 MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: Yes.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: So they --

7 MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: Only the Long  
8 Island.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. All right.  
10 That will be helpful because we will be reaching  
11 out to them as well. Judy, maybe we could even  
12 look to see, if we're going to ask for money,  
13 maybe even some more money for Able.

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That would  
15 automatically happen if they increase some of the  
16 routes. The problem with the northeast is that  
17 the routes have been cut. If they don't live  
18 within three-quarters of a mile of a route, they  
19 don't get it. It's totally -- it's inhumane  
20 what's going on in the northeast quadrant.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: You should run the  
22 MTA.

23 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I should run the  
24 MTA?

25 MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: I agree. I

completely agree.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I thought you liked me. I thought we had a relationship as friends.

LEGISLATOR FORD: We do. Well, you bring commonsense.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator Becker.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: I would just like to add congratulations on your appointment. Thank you for being here today, only because I have a great concerns about this as well. When I read a couple of weeks ago that NICE might have to reduce because of reduced funding or whatever shortfalls as having, they have to reduce routes and so forth. I'm 100 percent with you. In fact, I think that this body should draft a letter, we should all sign it, it goes right to - - we don't even need for him to draft anything for us. Legislator Jacobs, I'm talking to you. I just want to be sure.

I think we don't even have to -- whether there's extra funding available or not, the state, it would be great for the state to help us



subsidize the NICE Bus route.

As a real life story, my father has aides who come to visit him every day to take care of him. My wife has aides who take care of my mother-in-law and father-in-law. They all use the NICE Bus system. If the NICE Bus system isn't working, they're not getting there. It's very important to our economy, as has been pointed out in the past. But not to go on too long.

I just think this body, the presiding officer and the minority leader should get together, draft a letter, and I'd be happy to sign it. I think as an entire body, I think that would get the attention of the governor. I think we should do it right away.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: That's what I was saying to you, that if you could get it to us right away --

LEGISLATOR BECKER: We don't need it. We just have to ask for the funding.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: No, no. We have to know what to ask for. We have to understand where this pocket of money is, that's all I'm

saying.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: I'm saying we could say -- even if the money wasn't there, there's ways that the governor could direct some money towards Nassau.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: But think about it, really, Fran --

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Either way, we're saying the same thing.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: We are. We're in agreement. But if there's a pocket, we may as well direct our request into where the money is. So if you could get that to us, even before you leave here today, and both attorneys on each side of the aisle could work up a letter, I think you'll have 19 signatures.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Let's do that right away. And if we could have all the signatures on it, I think --

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I agree.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: we'll get the governor's attention.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone else?

(No verbal response.)

Thank you, Mr. Lopez.

MR. WATKINS-LOPEZ: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Barbara Salva.

MS. SALVA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Nice seeing you again. If you don't know who I am, my name is Barbara Salva. I am the deputy executive director of LITAC, Long Island Transgender Advocacy Coalition.

I don't want to take up too much of your time. But have you seen the news lately, news about the hatred, fear, and bigotry that has crossed this nation against transgender people like me? States like Florida, Texas, Indiana, Kentucky, all proposing bills that blatantly discriminate against the transgender community in the guise of public safety. These bills not only discriminate against transgender folks going to the bathroom not of their assigned gender at birth, but allow businesses to discriminate to all transgender people for using their services. Some bills make it a criminal offense with fines and jail time, even to those business owners who permit transgender people for using bathrooms in

their establishments.

Do you know what these bills have in common? Every single bill has been drawn up by republicans. Is that what you want your legacy to go down as, as a party?

In 1963, I graduated from Mineola High School. Shortly thereafter, I joined the Air Force for four years, with a little more than a year in Vietnam that I volunteered for. I and thousands more served our country to preserve our freedom from all discrimination and persecutions; yes, you sit there not lifting a finger to modify the existing Nassau County law that does not protect the last remaining minority, the transgender community.

I did my job to protect you and your civil rights and continue to do so. Why do you not do your job to protect mine?

I am not a celebrity and I am not a criminal. I am just an ordinary citizen doing the best she can, just like you. Measure me by my soul, my character, by who I am as a human being, not as a predator waiting for the opportunity to harm someone.

Include the trans community in the existing law so that no one has the right to discriminate against us, like a doctor or a hospital or an EMT person, let alone a taxi driver or a restaurant owner, or anyone preventing me from a basic human necessity, like using the restroom.

We don't want anything special. We just want to be equal, just like you.

I want to thank you for your time. And I hope you will reconsider your stance on the modification of the present LBG Law to include transgender people.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to use the ladies room.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very much, Mr. Nicolello.

I'd like to thank you, Barbara, I'd like to thank you, Joanne, for coming here today. I would like to let you know that I participate as a key note speaker at a conference of attorneys, The American Bar Association, in earlier last

month in California. I have to say that Nassau County is behind the times on this issue.

Just the other day I was traveling to Albany on the New York State Thruway. I went to the bathroom and they had a gender identity bathroom that was neutral to all persons. Unfortunately, by us not passing this legislation, in which we simply have to define gender, as a result an entire class of people are being persecuted, discriminated, they're living in fear. I know people in the transgender community who are afraid to call the police officers. Now, as a legislator I've asked the commissioner how does he train his officers as roll call in helping to identify that community and he had no response.

In many years to come we will be ashamed of this. The transgender community is the most marginalized community that we have. And by simply affording more rights to that community, I think all of us will face less discrimination.

I thank you very much, Barbara, for coming down here today. You are a veteran. You helped protect our rights. I simply want to do

the same for you. I will continue this fight.

People do not know that the founder of Sirius Radio is a transgendered woman. That's a billion dollar company. And I have reached out to that person. And I'm sure they would not want to invest here in Nassau County because of our backwards policies.

Please, legislators, I ask you to do the right thing. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Joanne Borden.

MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. I found a fundamentalist website that uses the Bible to say transgender people are sinners because they cross dress. Fundamentalists select a single passage to specifically promote hatred. They ignore the rest of the book. They ignore John questing Jesus and Samuel who both say the Lord judges by what is beneath the service and in our hearts. I and transgender people have known since childhood there is a woman or a man inside us beneath the service that does not match our sex organs.

Since I am a woman beneath the service and in my heart, I now heed God's word and no longer wear the clothes that pertain unto a man

because that would be an abomination.

Another charge is God created a man and a woman only. In the far right eyes, we violate God's intention and thus are sinners of the two people God created. Let us supposed that Eve was a blonde and Adam a brunette. That does not mean all redheads are sinners.

I could go on but I am limited here to three minutes. So my pass out contains a reference that exposes all the other misuses of the Bible used to promote hatred of us.

I do not defy God, and I advise you to heed his words as well. Love thy neighbor. Love all people. Suffice it to say, any doctrine that espouses hatred cannot be of God.

If your religion or fear of extreme religionists prevent you from protecting God's transgendered children from discrimination, you, you are the sinners.

Science proves transgender people are born transgender. We're born with the same attributes, the God given attributes and failings of his other children. We are not all strong enough to overcome society's induced shame and



fear. We need you to put an end to our fear, especially the fear of losing our jobs and losing our ability to support our families. Your belief that we are now protected is immaterial. What is material is the public perception and our subsequent fear of discrimination.

Define the word gender in our law and end that fear. It a simple thing. The law is all ready to be voted on. It's a simple act that is godly, American, and the right thing to do.

Thank you for listening.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator Jacobs.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Joanne, you know how many years now, five years that we've been trying. This has been in there. The bill is in there. I just don't get it. I think it's important. The thing that you don't say is the fact that the City and Suffolk, I think just about every other county in the state has it. If we had only thought that that definition was necessary when this bill was passed 19 to nothing, we thought we covered everything. But since we didn't, this is a minor addition. It's

not even a change. It's not even a new law. It's just a minor sentence to add in which would make it a level playing field.

I won't stop trying. You know I haven't stopped for five years. And I could tell you that you should keep coming because it's important, something sometimes clicks. We'll keep trying too.

MS. BORDEN: It's a very benign amendment. There are 143 million people living in this country with transgender rights laws and nothing bad has ever happened, ever.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I know. First place, be calmer. I'm just telling you I agree with you. That's not the point here. The point here is there's a difference in interpretation in our law that has been holding this up from the get-go, really. One legal side of the aisle feels a certain way; we feel a different way. My feeling is when there's that grey matter in between, you clarify it and make it right. That's what we've been trying to do.

MS. BORDEN: Amen.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Amen.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Andrew Malekoff,  
North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center.

MR. MALEKOFF: Good afternoon. I'd like  
to congratulate Legislator Kennedy. Also, I  
appreciate your honoring the DPW workers. I hope  
that in a couple of months that after all the  
potholes are filled that you'll be able to honor  
them again.

I'm not here to ask you for anything.  
I'm here just to advise you.

A few weeks ago it was announced that  
Catholic Charities is giving up their Freeport  
Mental Health Clinic. Before that, the \$250  
million 81-year-old FECS, with offices in  
Hempstead and Syosset, announced it was closing.  
Before that, the 100-year old Peninsula  
Counseling Center in Valley Stream gave up its  
mental health clinic. Before that, South Shore  
Child Guidance Center in Freeport was taken over  
by the Epilepsy Foundation. And before that,  
Family and Children's Association let go of its  
mental health clinics in Roosevelt and West  
Hempstead. And there are more to come.

These mental health clinics were tied to

reputable organizations and committed local boards of directors. When programs are closed and services are emerged it becomes almost impossible to recapture what's been lost. Change the culture and values follow. Managing care becomes managing cost, and vulnerable children and their families are shortchanged.

Some of the ways that clinics stay afloat are to restrict access to care to families with Medicaid only, which pay the best rates, to see kids for shorter periods of billable time in order to pack more revenue into a day, to replace salaried employees with per diem workers to save on fringe benefits, to stop responding to labor intensive crisis situations, to cut parents out of the equation, and to curtail essential supervision and case conferencing, in other words, to build a factor to maximize revenues and minimize quality care. Which kids' lives are at stake? What kinds of issues are they facing - depression, anxiety, child abuse, trauma, domestic violence, social isolation, school failure, racial bias, gender bias, bullying, family unrest, learning problems, loss in grief,

gang exposure, rape, suicide, homicide, obesity, eating disorders, alcohol and drug addiction, gambling, cutting and burning oneself, and much more. These are the children that a community-based mental health center sees every day, thousands each year. This is what is at stake. This is what is being eroded in New York State.

Push back against speed cameras and slot machines brought about change in Nassau County in two snaps of a finger. But children's mental health, hardly anybody is going to stand up for that, that is until it is their child who is suffering and they can't find the right help. Then they, your constituents, fight alone. After all, in mental health stigma rules and it crushes. It is more convenient to pretend that mental illness is the result of bad upbringing or moral failing. Bad government counts on that.

Everyone rallies around kids with cancer, but who rallies around kids with mental illness.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired.

MR. MALEKOFF: Thank you. Got it just on the nose.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Timed it perfectly. Andrew, I read your email that you sent over. It is very disturbing.

Where are these cuts generating from? Who is making these decisions to cut these programs? Is it the insurance companies? Is it the government?

MR. MALEKOFF: This is a policy of New York State that was launched in about 2008 called clinic reform, in which they changed fundamentally the way they financed outpatient mental health agencies. Over a period of four years they removed all of the funding from a particular line that they had, it was called medicating the system. It's a little bit complicated to explain. But they gave a bonus for each visit of a Medicaid client, then that money accumulated to be able to subsidize the rest of your budget and essentially to subsidize the commercial insurance rates, which are substandard. Commercial insurance rates are substandard. They don't come close to what the Medicaid rate is. Consequently, that can't be made up. So it was the policy of New York State,

in the way that they restructured the financing of outpatient mental health agencies, that's the primary cause of the closure of these clinics.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Have you spoken -- have you testified before the State Insurance Committee? Why can't they just pressure the insurance companies to pay more for a service? It's an important service.

MR. MALEKOFF: I don't know the exact reason. I assume that there are very high paid lobbyists that influence legislators. So I'm not so sure how quickly they're going to fight for them to raise their rates. But the reality is the commercial insurance companies are supposed to have what's called adequacy of network, which means that they are supposed to have an adequate number of providers for different specialties in each geographic region in order to cover the insured. And the reality is that when it comes to mental health that that is not the case. There are people on the rosters, but if you call those people they will quite often say they do not take insurance. Why don't they take the insurance? Because they pay substandard rates.

It's much more lucrative for them to have people pay out of pocket. When they do accept insurance, the people that will often come to community-based mental health agencies, who may require, especially children and families, more labor intensive kind of work, which involves a lot of work with what we refer to as collateral parents, school personnel, probation, social services, you name it, they're not willing to subsidize the cost for that kind of work. So, consequently, as I said, organizations are scaling back by eliminating salaried employees, hiring per diem people.

So the insurance companies should be pressured. They do not have adequate networks. Their licenses should be pulled if it can be proved that they don't have those networks in place.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you. I'm going to reach out to the state. Thank you.

MR. MALEKOFF: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Excuse me. Over here. Presiding Officer, may I?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Bynoe.



LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

Hi, Mr. Malakoff. How are you today?

MR. MALEKOFF: Okay. How are you?

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good, good, good.

This body is very concerned about mental health initiatives and how we engage with the community regarding access to those types of services. As a matter of fact, during our last budget process this body actually put in for a \$1 million investment into shoring up our mental health initiatives. Unfortunately that budget was vetoed. But I have not given up looking into how we can make sure that we expand our clinical services for mental health across Nassau County.

Legislator Becker and I met with Lisa Murphy, the commissioner of human services, several times and also with members of Executive Magana's administration about this issue. So it really is of concern. While Legislator Becker and I were the ones who met with those individuals, the entire legislative body has been supportive. So it's on our radar. We have not forgotten about it, and we will continue to move forward on it.

MR. MALEKOFF: I appreciate all that you can do. I think that certainly anything, a million dollars split among a whole bunch of agencies will help somewhat. In addition to that, I hope together as a body as you become more educated about these issues that you contact the governor and you ask him what on earth is it that you are doing with your policies that are causing so many closures here in Nassau County, in New York City, and across the state.

I was just alerted this morning that there is a commission that's being formed in New York City to investigate, to examine what the factors are behind the number of closures that have occurred in the recent past. So I think that just raising the question makes a difference and putting their feet to the fire so that they can't operate in secrecy.

There was a report in Crain's Business Health Plus last week in which they said that it's an open secret that the New York State Office of Mental Health is looking for mergers and acquisitions for any organization that has a budget less than \$25 million. So this is without

regard for what the quality of care will be after that actually happens. So this open secret has to be exposed and it has to be confronted. I think that by confronting the governor, I think that would be a great first step.

Write a letter and ask the governor what on earth is happening with the closures of mental health clinics and let's see what he has to say.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Muller?

CLERK MULLER: Thirty minutes have expired of public comment.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What will happen, we will go into the Full Leg calendar, and after that we will then come back to public comment.

Those of you whose slips I have, I will call you after we have the calendar.

This is one of the things I've tried to impress upon my colleagues, the fact is this is your time. If everyone stays to the three minutes and let the public comment and if there are questions that need to be answered or addressed, we have Connie Petruccio over there,

who can certainly take the information that you need or the legislator can come down and speak with you. I think that this is what happens when we engage in a question and answer period.

Without any further ado, I think that we can certainly get to the full calendar. It's my understanding that this is a consent calendar, just like our committees were consent. I believe that all of the items are consent.

I'm going to begin with Item 1, Ordinance 24; Item 2, Ordinance 25; Item 3, Ordinance 26; Item 4, Ordinance 27; Item 5, Ordinance 28; Item 6, Ordinance 29; Item 7, Ordinance 30; Item 8, Ordinance 31; Item 9, Resolution 43; Item 10, Resolution 44; Item 11, Resolution 45; Item 12, Resolution 46; Item 13, Resolution 47; and I believe that's the end of the consent calendar.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator Dunne.

As I just said, these items were in each of the committees.

If there are no additional comments from the legislators or any public comment on these items, please -- all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items pass unanimously.

Now, I will not adjourn this meeting. I will put it in recess for about five or ten minutes because there are issues that will be brought up very shortly before this body and we need to get some clarification. So we'll take about a ten minute recess.

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature recessed at 2:31 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature reconvened at 2:53 p.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We're back. At this time we have I believe some emergencies. Hopefully we can move them along. Then after the emergencies, those of you who are here for public comment, we will resume public comment. I see Domenica is out there waiting patiently. We will

commence as soon as we finish with the  
emergencies.

Okay. Mr. Muller.

CLERK MULLER: Do you want them one at a  
time or all three together?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer, we  
have three emergencies, all come by way of the  
county executive.

Clerk Item Number 119-15 is an emergency  
resolution declaring emergency for immediately  
action upon a resolution declaring a capital  
budget emergency pursuant to 310(D) of the County  
Government Law of Nassau County.

If that emergency were accepted, 119-15  
will become Emergency Resolution 3-2015,  
Resolution 47-A-15.

Clerk Item Number 120-15, which is a  
recommendation of the county executive to the  
County Legislature at a meeting of the County  
Legislature on Monday, March 16, 2015, for the  
adoption of an emergency resolution declaring an  
emergency for immediate action upon a bond  
ordinance providing for a capital expenditure to

finance the capital projects identified herein within the County of Nassau, and authorizing \$98,162,500 of bonds of the County of Nassau to finance such expenditure, pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York and the County Government Law of Nassau County.

If accepted as an emergency that clerk item number would be Emergency Resolution 4-15, Ordinance 31-A-15.

And the final Clerk Item Number is 121-15, which is a recommendation that the county executive is presenting to the legislature to accept an emergency resolution declaring an emergency for immediate action upon an ordinance to amend Ordinance Number 28-2014, adopting the capital budget for the year 2014 for the County of Nassau, corresponding to the first year of the four year capital plan, pursuant to the provisions of Section 310 of the County Government Law of Nassau County.

Clerk Item 121-15, if the emergency is accepted, would become Emergency Resolution 5-2015, Ordinance Number 31-B-15.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion to

establish the emergency?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Jacobs.

All those in favor of establishing the  
emergencies signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The emergencies are established.

Since we're going to do all of them at  
once, Mr. Muller.

CLERK MULLER: Yes. Emergency  
Resolution 3-15, a resolution declaring a capital  
budget emergency pursuant to 310(D) of the County  
Government Law of Nassau County.

Emergency Resolution 4-2015, a bond  
ordinance providing for a capital expenditure to  
finance the capital projects identified herein  
within the County of Nassau, and authorizing  
\$98,162,500 of bonds of the County of Nassau to  
finance such expenditure, pursuant to the Local  
Finance Law of New York and the County Government



Law of Nassau County.

Emergency Resolution 5-2015, Ordinance 31-B-2015, an ordinance to amend Ordinance Number 28-2014, adopting the capital budget for the year 2014 for the County of Nassau, corresponding to the first year of the four year capital plan, pursuant to the provisions of Section 310 of the County Government Law of Nassau County.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions on these emergencies? I'm sorry. We need another motion.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Nicolello.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

All those opposed?

(No verbal response.)

We now have -- that's it. No questions. No nothing.

That was quick. That's because we were well informed prior to doing these emergencies.

So we had the information and, therefore, we were able to proceed.

I need a motion to adjourn.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator Dunne.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature adjourned at 2:57 p.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: As promised, there are a few people who are still here, and I did say that we would do the rest of public comment. But before I do, I didn't do it earlier today. This morning we had women's history ceremony. A number of outstanding women were honored by the legislators. I failed to acknowledge the fact that nothing happens in a vacuum. All those who participated in getting the program done were not recognized. I'd like to recognize my assistant Elizabeth Freeze, my

aide Dolores Roam, and Sara Fana, who has been doing this with Liz for god knows how many years. So I really and truly say thank you. It just didn't feel right when I left the chambers. I personally thank them. And I know on behalf of the legislators, they are grateful as well.

Now it's the public's turn, as promised.

Domenica Califano.

MS. CALIFANO: Hello. Hi. I'm here to speak about -- I've been here for several months, about VIP Splash, Operation Splash. I have not received any documentation of the payments that the county has given to this corporate yet or if FEMA has paid them anything yet.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Connie Petrucci.

MS. PETRUCCI: I would be more than happy to provide the information. I did not get a request, an e-mail, a phone call on the information that she'd like.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: But will you get it to her as soon as possible?

MS. PETRUCCI: Absolutely. Absolutely.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

MS. CALIFANO: I've been speaking to

every county meeting for the last several months on this. I wasn't sure --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

Domenica, do me a favor. Address this -- this is information that you need to get directly from the county executive's office. Connie will do this if you just give her.

MS. CALIFANO: I have met, Norma. I did it to Mr. May and Mr. May never called me back.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let me ask you. Did you file a Freedom of Information Request?

MS. CALIFANO: Yes, I did, with Mr. May. And May never called me back. I have emails corresponding to him and me.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Connie - Domenica, I will tell Connie to follow up and get that information to you as quickly as possible.

MS. CALIFANO: Okay. Also, I have one other thing to speak about.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Go ahead.

MS. CALIFANO: We're having a little difficulty with the Fourth Precinct in Nassau County in Island Park and Oceanside. There was a call to one of the buildings this past Friday

night that there was under aged drinking going on. The kids were 15, 16 years old. They were absolutely bombed.

Officer Shannon from the Fourth Precinct, Car Number 416 comes to the building, I get a call. I go to the building. I ask the officer what's going on at the building. He turned around like a crazy person, screaming and yelling at me. I asked him, what are you doing? Why are all these kids -- and I'm counting, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten - there was 20 kids leaving this building absolutely drunk and bombed and whatever else they're on. I'm not sure what the cops are supposed to do when they get a call like this. He attacked me. He would not leave the driveway. After I tried to call the Fourth Precinct, and when the gentleman answered the phone at the Fourth, I asked him to speak to a supervisor, lieutenant or sergeant. I gave him my name. I told him what was going on at the building, that we had an officer there, Christopher Shannon, car number this, that he was not doing anything, and they hung up the phone. I called back a few

minutes later and I asked for Sergeant Stillman. Sergeant Stillman is in our area. I ended up not using my name. I had to use a phony name. Sergeant Stillman got on the phone and said what was the problem. I explained to him. He said he will look into it. I am meeting with him on Wednesday night at 7:30 at the Fourth to put a complaint against the officer.

But I am not sure what their protocol is when they come to a home that was called, a 9-1-1 call was given to the building, under aged drinking. I'm not sure why the officer did not give a violation to the adult, the mother or the father that was there to protect our young children.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired.

MS. CALIFANO: And the officer ended up turning around and getting so nasty in the parking lot towards me, for what reason - I'm not sure what's going on with this county anymore.

I was there to protect the young teenagers that were on the influence. And they smelled and the officer did nothing about it.

Instead, he attacked me verbally.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'll relay that information to the commissioner.

MS. CALIFANO: Excuse me?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I will relay that information to the commissioner.

MS. CALIFANO: Do you know what the protocol is with an officer going to a home and there's kids drinking and drunk? He just went there and asked him to break up the party.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I cannot answer for the police department on what the protocol is. I don't have a member of the police department here to answer that question. So I will get the information for you and get that back to you.

MS. CALIFANO: There's no member from the Nassau County Police Department here that could answer that?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Not really.

MS. CALIFANO: Oh, okay.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Thank you, Domenica.

MS. CALIFANO: Is that the commissioner

here? He's not able to answer that?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If he chooses to.  
Would you like to respond?

MS. CALIFANO: Could you just tell us  
what the protocol is of an officer going to a  
home?

ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: The  
officer - I already spoke to her. We have all  
her information. We'll be looking into this and  
we'll be conducting an investigation. I'm not  
able to speak to specifics at this point in time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I really don't  
expect you to, Commissioner.

The next name is Anna D'Amaro.

MS. AMBROSIA: She had to leave. I'm  
Patty Ambrosia. I also have a slip up there.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do you know what  
Patty was going to speak on? You know what? Let  
me do this. If she's not here, I'm going to go  
to the next person, and it's John Budnick. And  
then I'll talk to you, Patty.

MR. BUDNICK: Good afternoon. Madam  
Chair, honorable members of the board, I wish to  
convey my highest, my very, very highest



congratulations to James Kennedy and also my friend, Steve Rhoads, who I believe is going to be approaching membership in this august organization.

I wanted to continue to make two very -- three very important points about the waters of Nassau County. We need to continue to push the governor and the State Legislature for the outfall in the west Nassau County, southwest Nassau County area to stop the destruction of the Western Bays there. They've been so polluted, it's terrible.

I know there are certain downsides that can be perhaps engineered out of this. We also have to worry about the Grumman Navy plume that's approaching Legislator Kennedy's and Legislator Rhoads' areas. Every day it's getting closer and closer. We need to put pressure on the state, the State DEC, the governor to engage in operations to clean that up as quickly as possible before it ends up destroying the areas, such as the Massapequa Preserve, Tackapausha Preserve, Wantagh, Cedar Creek Park and then down into the bay north of Jones Beach.

The other gentleman, whose name I can't remember right this minute, who spoke about mental health. You have to tie what he's saying into the increasing - it's not decreasing as it seemed to say in *Newsday* the other day. The decreasing amount of heroin overdoses. We have also an increasing number of suicides of young people. We also have an attempt being made by the state to, in effect, stop family court high level intervention into children who are seriously in need of supervision or have actually trespassed to the point that they become juvenile delinquents.

The State of New York is not adequately providing the resources to the County of Nassau for you folks to be able to do what our people in this County need. We must push on the state authorities to get them to give us the resources that our county needs.

We have young people dying, sadly enough, left and right, all over our county. We need help.

We need to correct an error that happened another of years ago, when we lost Topic House.

There are many, many things that need to be done  
and --

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have  
expired.

MR. BUDNICK: we need the state to be  
able to help us in order to make this a --

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have  
expired, sir.

MR. BUDNICK: where we can try and do  
what needs to be done.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Patty Ambrosia,  
now it's your turn.

MS. AMBROSIA: Hello. So, Anna's  
question was about the Long Beach Motor Inn, just  
to get a little bit of an update to bring back to  
our community.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What was her  
question?

MS. AMBROSIA: That's her question. The  
Long Beach Motor Inn in Island Park, an update.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: The notice was posted  
in the newspaper, as required by law. It will

then go into the court system for a judge to take a look at this. It's all legal type of stuff. Then, hopefully, once that's completed, we will then be taking possession.

MS. AMBROSIA: Would you know about the timeframe?

LEGISLATOR FORD: I don't want to give you any false hopes.

MS. AMBROSIA: Okay.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Hopefully, at least by summer.

MS. AMBROSIA: Then my next question is about the county roads that abut the sidewalks and who is going to be shoveling. I was here a couple of months ago and they mentioned the fire marshal would be taking care of that, then the process never went any further.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's still under review.

MS. AMBROSIA: It's still what?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's still under review.

MS. AMBROSIA: And how long does it stay under review for?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Until we can resolve all of the questions that both sides of the aisle have.

MS. AMBROSIA: So this can actually go on another couple of years? Because I've been doing this with Denise Ford for a very long time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Listen to me. It will be in time for the next snow. And it's not going to be this year. It should be in time for the next winter season. We're working on it now. It's under review.

MS. AMBROSIA: Okay. And I have a question for Denise Ford about Austin Boulevard. Lights went up on Kingston Boulevard but nothing has happened.

LEGISLATOR FORD: It has to do with the weather. And for some odd reason, everything's been delayed. We've been calling. Because I travel that way all the time, it just seems to be like an unfair tease that it's like part of them are up and they're not operating. I noticed the same thing in Long Beach where we have a mall and we put traffic signals there. They're still not operational either. We're pushing for it,

because I'd like to get this resolved.

MS. AMBROSIA: Is that the highway department? I need to call. We just had another major car accident there. Something has to get done, Legislator. I've come in front of this board several times about Austin Boulevard as well.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. You could send a letter to DPW, Commissioner Shah.

MS. AMBROSIA: Okay. Then my last question is from the start of Austin Boulevard to the Long Beach Bridge, our potholes are out of control.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That is countywide.

MS. AMBROSIA: Something has to be done.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: There is not a road that has not been impacted by this.

MS. AMBROSIA: It's what?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's countywide. There isn't a road in anybody's district that has not been impacted by this horrible winter that we've had.

MS. AMBROSIA: I just wanted to put it

on the record that I'm here to complain about Austin Boulevard, so it's on the record.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's fine.

MS. AMBROSIA: I understand that it's all over Nassau County.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, it is. Thank you very much.

MS. AMBROSIA: You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Shelly Rose Fazio.

MS. FAZIO: Good afternoon. My name is Shelley Case Fazio, and I live in Bethpage. I would like to address the proposal of the advertising billboards being placed on the Long Island Expressway and also in the area of the Roosevelt Mall.

I have spoken to many people in my community, when I go to post offices, when I go to libraries, when I go to meetings at a synagogue or meeting at HADASA or even in the supermarkets. People are expressing that they don't want these billboards up with lights because it will be a terrible distraction. Do we have enough distractions already on the road?

Are people distracted? Okay. I understand some people are using their devices to be distracted, they're choosing to.

I am in the community of Bethpage and I speak to people from Plainview, Old Bethpage, Woodbury, Jericho, and Syosset and Hicksville. We all know that in these communities and other communities in Nassau County that the baby booming population is growing. They're growing and leaving because of taxes, because of high costs of things on Long Island. Do we want more people to exodus - to join the exodus from Long Island, more seniors because of the roads being so dangerous, they're dangerous enough as it is, the roads being so dangerous as to cause distraction for people to have tremendous accidents?

One person, in particular, who is a friend of mine told me a story of a truck that he saw and he stopped to help out a truck that he saw go over a car. The truck driver said I just turned for a second to look at something. It only takes a fraction of a second. If there is a billboard up with lights and they're advertising



something, what if somebody decides I want to write down that number and they're distracted?

Just to tell you a little bit about -- and younger people can be distracted as well by advertising.

There are billboards in the United States on main highways, up and down 95 north and south, but they're placed intermittently. We're talking about Long Island Expressway. It's not that long of a road. The way they will be placed, I understand, is pretty close in proximity to each other.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, ma'am.

MS. FAZIO: Oh.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ms. Fazio, thank you for your comments.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Excuse me --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ms. Fazio.

MS. FAZIO: Yes.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I just wanted to say something to you. I have been on this for a while now, ever since it surfaced. I'm glad to see people are talking about it. They should be

writing to people in the county, including me,  
and to the county executive. This can't be done  
in a box. People have to express how they're  
feeling.

I representing the Long Island  
Expressway, seriously, from Roslyn Heights all  
the way to the county line of Suffolk. I  
understand what you're saying. I know where  
these things are.

Right now it's just a proposal that has  
been changed already, from what I've heard. I'm  
not saying I agree with this proposal. I'm just  
saying it has been already modified. You have to  
hear from people. There have been articles  
already.

MS. FAZIO: May I ask what is the  
modification?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: No. I can't give  
that right now. That was something I heard  
personally that it's been modified, but not where  
you would want it to be modified, let's put it  
that way.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this point,  
that ends public comments. As I said, we would

2 listen to as many as would choose to remain. And  
3 so now we are -- we're already adjourned, so we  
4 are dismissed. We are done. Thank you for your  
5 comments.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for the State of New York,  
do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above  
mentioned and took stenographic record of the  
proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and  
accurate transcript of the same and the whole  
thereof, according to the best of my ability and  
belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

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FRANK GRAY